

CLAIMS

Therefore, having thus described the invention, at least the following is claimed:

- 1 1. A system for use in routing calls within a telephone network, comprising:
2 a service control point (SCP) operative to receive a local number portability
3 (LNP) query from a switch, where the LNP query is associated with a call
4 from a subscriber to a first service provider;
5 an intelligent traffic routing and control (INTRAC) unit operable to provide
6 routing directions for the call;
7 where the SCP is further operative to direct the LNP query to the intelligent traffic
8 routing and control unit when the call is a data call and not when the call is
9 a voice call.

- 1 2. The system of claim 1, where the routing directions comprise a Local
2 Routing Number.

- 1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the routing directions direct the call to an
2 access server operated by the first service provider.

- 1 4. The system of claim 3, wherein the access server is chosen based on a type
2 of service associated with the subscriber.

- 1 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the type of service comprises X2.
- 1 6. The system of claim 4, wherein the type of service comprises K56Flex.
- 1 7. The system of claim 4, wherein the type of service comprises ISDN.
- 1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the the routing directions direct the call to
2 a trunk group connecting an access server operated by the first service provider and the
3 switch.
- 1 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the the routing directions direct the call to
2 an access server operated by a second service provider.
- 1 10. A method of routing calls within a telephone network, comprising:
2 receiving a local number portability (LNP) query from a switch, where the LNP
3 query is associated with a call from a subscriber to a first service provider;
4 directing the LNP query to an intelligent traffic routing and control (INTRAC)
5 unit when the call is a data call and not when the call is a voice call; and
6 providing routing directions for the call.

1 11. The method of claim 10, where providing routing directions for the call
2 further comprises:
3 providing routing directions which direct the call to an access server operated by
4 the first service provider.

1 12. The method of claim 10, where providing routing directions for the call
2 further comprises:
3 providing routing directions which direct the call to a trunk group connecting the
4 switch and an access server operated by the first service provider.

1 13. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
2 evaluating resources available at the first service provider.

1 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
2 identifying a preferred access server operated by the first service provider,
3 responsive to evaluating resources available at the first service provider.

1 15. An apparatus comprising:
2 a service package manager operative to receive a Local Number Portability (LNP)
3 query from a switch, the LNP query associated with a call from a
4 subscriber to a first service provider, the service package manager further
5 operative to determine a call type of the call;
6 a intelligent traffic routing and control (INTRAC) unit operative to generate a
7 LNP response if the call type is a data call;
8 a LNP processing unit operative to generate a LNP response the the call type is
9 not a data call.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the call type is determined by
2 comparing a Called Party Addres field in the LNP query with telephone numbers in a
3 database.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the LNP response generated by the
2 INTRAC unit contains the Local Routing Number of a preferred access server operated
3 by the first service provider.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the INTRAC unit is a service package
2 application.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the LNP processing unit is a service
2 package application.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the LNP processing unit and the
2 INTRAC unit share the same Sub-System Number and the same translation type.